

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending and stand rejected. Independent Claims 1, 8, 15 and 27 have been amended to clarify that the processor in the cleaner is an on-board processor. Support for the amendment can be found at paragraph 33 of the specification and in Figure 1A, for example. It is believed that no new matter has been added by way of the amendment.

Claims 1-37 are pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Allen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,995,884 ("Allen et al.") in view of Roy et al., "Surface Sensing and Classification for Efficient Mobile Robot Navigation" ("Roy et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse the claim rejections and request reconsideration and withdrawal.

Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the references because neither of the references discloses an on-board processor in a cleaning unit. In contrast to the present claims, Allen discloses that its device is constructed for the "specific purpose of being attached to a personal computer already owned and operated by the end user." Col. 9, lines 54-57. As indicated, "[v]irtually the only two functions of onboard control system 41 are (1) to relay information from the various vehicle sensors to control program 16 on host computer 9, and (2) to control the various vehicle systems in response to simple commands from host computer 9."

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Amendment, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated number.

The Director is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-1818 under Order No. 112440-135.

Respectfully submitted,

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